Target of irrigation potential in Maharashtra

2021. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irrigation potential has been targeted to be created in the State of Maharashtra by the end of this century;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds have also been earmarked for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (d) The target in respect of creation of irrigation potential in the State of Maharashtra and the outlay therefor fixed for the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-1997) are 800 thousand hectares and Rs. 3003.71 crores respectively. The Eighth Five Year Plan period will be over on March 31, 1997 and the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) will commence on April 1, 1997. The targets and outlays for the Ninth Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

German Defence Minister's statement on Indo-Pak dispute

2022. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether German Defence Minister during his visit to New Delhi in last week of October, 1996 called on Pakistan and India to resolve the Kashmir issue under the Simla Agreement of 1972; and

(b) if so, the Pak Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) During the official discussions which the German Defence Minister held during his visit, the Kashmir issue was not raised. However, in a press conference, he called upon India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue on the basis of the Simla Agreement.

(b) There has been no comment from the Government of Pakistan.

Problem Faced by Cotton Growers due to the Open General Licence System

2023. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems being faced by the cotton growers due to the Open General Licence System adopted by the Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review its decision; and

(c) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) Import of cotton is under Open General Licence (OGL). However, as against a domestic production of 156.50 lakh bales of cotton in 1995-96, the import of cotton is estimated to be only around 1 lakh bales that year. Export of cotton is not under OGL, and exports are subject to quotas released by Government. While announcing the export quotas the interests of the cotton growers as well as the consumers of cotton in the organised and the decentralised sector, are kept in view. Government also fixes Minimum Support Prices for cotton every year, with a view to protecting the interest of cotton growers.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Printing of MTNL Directory

2024. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone subscribers in Delhi and Mumbai would not get telephone directories for the third successive year due to wrong policies of Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to remove various hurdles and take corrective steps to print the new edition of telephone directory for Delhi and Mumbai telephone subscribers; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. The telephone directories for Delhi and